

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing Amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

In this Amendment, claim 8 has been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. Claims 1-7 and 15-16 have been cancelled without any prejudice and/or disclaimer. Claims 8-14 are pending in the present application. This Amendment is supported throughout the original application, especially in the drawings. No new matter has been introduced through this Amendment.

Rejections of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b)

The Examiner, in the instant Official Action, has rejected claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C § 102 (b) as being anticipated by USP 6,290,302 (hereinafter "'302").

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 8 is patentable over the applied art of record at least because, amended claim 8 recites "...one end of the polyester bristles is needle shaped..." This feature of amended claim 8 is not disclosed by the '302 reference. For example, the '302 reference discloses non needle shaped bristles and not needle shaped bristles. Further, the '302 reference refers to a nylon bristles and not polyester bristles. At least for the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Further, claims 9-10 are dependent on amended independent claim 8 and hence are patentable over the applied art of record at least for the reasons advanced above with respect to independent claim 8.

Rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C § 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C 103 (a) as being unpatentable over '302 reference in view of USP 5,176,427. Further, the Examiner has also rejected claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C 103 (a) as being unpatentable over '302 reference in view of USP 5,176,427, and further in view of USP 6,764,142.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11-14 are dependent on amended independent claim 8 and hence are patentable over the applied art of record at least for the reasons advanced above with respect to independent claim 8.

Conclusion

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed/ overcome. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: July 05, 2007